

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 INT-08

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AF/ RA: PWALKER

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R 092210 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, XA, XM, PO

SUBJECT: OAS POLITELY REBUFFS PORTUGAL

REF: STATE 39284 AND 24581 (NOTAL); MONROVIA 1081, USUN786

SUMMARY: JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL DECIDED MARCH 6 TO PIGEONHOLE PORTUGUESE REQUEST FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS, IN ORDER SPARE PORTUGAL POSSIBLE OUTRIGHT REJECTION OVER ITS AFRICAN COLONIAL POLICIES. END SUMMARY

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1. PERMANENT COUNCIL' S COMMITTEE ON JURIDICAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS MET BRIEFLY MARCH 6 TO CONSIDER PORTUGAL' S REQUEST FOR PERMANENT OBSERVER STATUS, AS INSTRUCTED BY COUNCIL AFTER SENIOR BODY HAD SPARRED INCONCLUSIVELY THROUGH TWO SESSIONS OVER PORTUGUES APPLICATION. ARGUING THAT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE TOO BUSY PREPARING FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO GIVE MATTER ADEQUATE STUDY NOW, GUATEMALA FORMALLY MOVED TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION SINE DIE. AFTER URUGUAY AND MEXICO SECONDED, BRAZIL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MANY DELS WERE APPARENTLY UNINSTRUCTED OR UNDECIDED AND ACQUIESCED IN POSTPONEMENT.

2. U. S. (AMB JOVA) ALSO AGREED TO POSTPONEMENT, WHILE INSISTING SUCH ACTION IN NO WAY SHOULD PREJUDICE COUNCIL' S ULTIMATE DECISION ON PORTUGUESE REQUEST. STRESSED U. S. HAD ELSEWHERE INDICATED ITS DISAPPROVAL OF PORTUGUESE COLONIAL POLICY IN AFRICA, BUT ARGUED THOSE POLICIES NOT PERTINENT TO RELATIONS WITH INTER- AMERICAN SYSTEM, WHERE PORTUGAL' S TIES ARE ANCIENT AND EXTENSIVE. ADDED IT WOULD BE MOCKERY TO REQUIRE THAT A NATION BE RICH IN ORDER TO OBTAIN OBSERVER STATUS.

3. AFTER SEVERAL OTHER DELS PRONOUNCED IN FAVOR OF POSTPONEMENT AND NONE EXPRESSED OPPOSITION, CHAIRMAN (SEVILLA SACASA - NIC.) DECLARED IT TO BE CONSENSUS OF MEETING THAT MATTER BE SHELVED SINE DIE AND THAT CHAIRMAN HIMSELF SHOULD TAKE SOUNDINGS TO DETERMINE WHEN IT SHOULD BE RAISED AGAIN.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE OUR EARLIER ESTIMATE (STATE 39284), IT WAS APPARENT AS WE WENT INTO MEETING THAT SHIFTS HAD OCCURRED AWAY FROM PORTUGAL. ARGENTINE DELEGATION TOLD US THAT AFRICAN GROUP AT UN HAD EXERTED GREAT PRESSURE ON LATIN GROUP, AS WELL AS BILATERALLY, TO OPPOSE PORTUGUESE APPLICATION. BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR, ESTIMATING THAT PORTUGAL MIGHT NOT GET MORE THAN 12 FORSEEABLE VOTES (OF POSSIBLE 23), CONSIDERED IT PREFERABLE WORK OUT SCENARIO OF POSTPONEMENT. HE CONSIDERS THAT AFTER UN SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN PANAMA (WITH IMPORTANT AFRICAN PARTICIPATION) AND AFTER OASGA-- AND PROVIDING PORTUGAL ITSELF DOES SOME ACTIVE LOBBYING IN MEANTIME-- CHANCES MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPROVE FOR PORTUGAL' S ACCEPTANCE BY MORE RESPECTABLE

MAJORITY. ROGERS

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